

Appl. No. : 09/989,563
Filed : November 19, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 and 25 are pending in the present application and were rejected on various grounds in the Office Action mailed on May 31, 2002. Applicants appealed and the rejections were upheld by the Board in a Decision mailed on July 26, 2006. The Board also made a new rejection of Claims 15 and 16 based upon lack of written description support and lack of enablement.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 15 and 25 are amended herein to specify that the clamping circuit is configured to allow an output to vary below a maximum. The amendments are fully supported by the specification and claims as originally filed, for example in paragraph [0040]. No new matter is added by the amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 – 16 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Furumochi (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,277) in view of Javanifard (U.S. Patent No. 5,483,486). In its decision, the Board found that Applicants argument "rely on language that does not appear in Claim 1." Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 4, 10, 15 and 25 to recite that that clamping circuit is configured to allow an output to vary below a maximum. Neither the Furumochi reference or the Javanifard reference teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, Applicants request that the present rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as the specification lacks adequate written description and enablement for the claimed subject matter. The Board determined that the specification did not support or enable claims regarding a bypass device that is "reversibly activated to reversibly bypass" Applicants submit that Figure 4A, which forms part of the specification, contains sufficient description to meet the written description and enablement standards. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that a voltage applied to node 405 or 410 can be utilized to turn on or off transistor 425 or 430, which in turn would either bypass or include diode 311 or 313 in the circuit. Accordingly, the specification contains sufficient description to meet the written description and enablement standards. Accordingly, Applicants request that the present rejection be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the present amendments and arguments, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If some issue remains that the Examiner believes can be addressed by Examiner's Amendment, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for authorization.

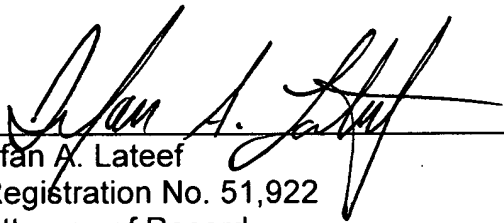
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: September 26, 2006

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